Choral and Vocal Ensembles

in the Department of Music

Come Sing With Us!

University of Alberta
Department of Music

Choral Ensembles

The Department of Music's choral ensembles, the Concert Choir and the Madrigal Singers provide interested and qualified singers with opportunities to sing great choral music and to meet other students with like interests. These ensembles are available for credit as a Fine Arts option to students in other areas of study (Music X40 in the Calendar). Membership is based on auditions that are held immediately prior to the beginning of classes each Fall Term (watch for posters in August).

The University of Alberta Concert Choir

Founded in 1970, the University of Alberta Concert Choir is a large ensemble of some 80 singers. Under the direction of Dr Debra Cairns, the ensemble studies and performs a variety of sacred and secular repertoire ranging from motets, part songs and spirituals, to large works with orchestra. A national semi-finalist in the 2000 CBC Radio Amateur Choir Competition (Mixed Choir category), the ensemble has appeared with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, has performed at the Alberta Music Conference, and has been heard on national broadcasts of the CBC. The choir has also appeared as guest artist in Edmonton's Musica Festiva concert series and the Department of Music's showcase concert series, Music at Convocation Hall. The choir tours in the spring of each year, the most recent tours being to southwestern Ontario and British Columbia.

A graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, **Dr Debra Cairns** co-supervises the graduate program in choral conducting, teaches undergraduate conducting, and conducts the University of Alberta Concert Choir. She is also the director of the community chamber choir, I Coristi, which was a national semi-finalist in the 2000 and 2002 CBC Radio Amateur Choir Competition. A recipient of the Sir Ernest MacMillan Memorial Prize in Conducting, Debra Cairns has had articles on the music of the Renaissance composer, Palestrina, published in the Choral Journal and Anacrusis, and has edited a mass by Palestrina which was issued by Carus-Verlag of Stuttgart, Germany in March, 1999. Increasingly active as a conference presentor both nationally and internationally, she has given several sessions on her current area of research interest, the relationship of gesture to sound. She is active as a clinician, adjudicator and examiner in Alberta and other parts of Canada, is a former member of the Board of Directors of the Alberta Choral Federation, and was on the planning committee of Podium 2000 (national conference of the Association of Canadian Choral Conductors), held in Edmonton, July 2000.

Auditions: Auditions will take place in FAB 1-29, 2-15, Studio 27: Sign-up sheet(s) with exact times and location will be posted on the door of FAB 1-29 on August 19.

***Rehearsals** (Regular attendance is required):* Mon., Wed., Fri.: 1:00 to 1:50 pm; Mon.: 5:00 to 5:50 pm in FAB 1-29.

University of Alberta Madrigal Singers

Comprised of about 40 auditioned singers from across campus under the direction of Leonard Ratzlaff, the Madrigal Singers have emerged in the past two decades as one of the foremost university chamber choirs in Canada. Frequent first prize winners in the CBC's Choral Competition for Amateur Choirs, the Madrigal Singers have also had several successes at two major international competitions in Germany, and in 1999, they earned first prize for their performance in the International Competition in Cork, Ireland. The Madrigal Singers' CD "Balulalow: Anthems, Carols and Lullabies for Christmas" (Arktos 99037) was awarded the Association of Canadian

Choral Conductors National Choral Award in the recording category for the year 2000. Their most recent CD release, "My Soul, There is a Country..." (Arktos 200149), features the premiere recording of British composer Gavin Bryars' **On Photography**, as well as choral music by John Tavener and several Canadian composers including Allan Bevan and James Rolfe. They are frequently recorded by the CBC, and have appeared as guests of the Edmonton Symphony, performing Ravel's ballet music "Daphnis and Chloe" with Grzegorz Nowak, and appearing in the ESO's *Resound* Festival of Contemporary Music. This November the Madrigal Singers have been invited for a return engagement in *University Voices 2002*, a festival of 8 university choirs in Toronto sponsored by Soundstreams Canada, to perform under the direction of Swedish conductor Robert Sund.

Leonard Ratzlaff has been on the faculty in the Department of Music at the University of Alberta since 1981. His doctoral studies at University of Iowa culminated with a dissertation on Austrian 19th century composer Anton Bruckner's **Te Deum**, which earned him the *Julius Herford Dissertation Prize* from the American Choral Directors Association. Ratzlaff directs the University of Alberta Madrigal Singers, teaches conducting and choral literature, and co-supervises the largest graduate studies program in choral conducting in Canada. Other duties include vocal coaching in the Department's chamber music program. His performance activity as a baritone soloist has included appearances in Alberta and at several summer music festivals in Europe. He also directs the Richard Eaton Singers, Edmonton's foremost large chorus, and has appeared regularly as guest conductor of the Edmonton Symphony and Pro Coro Canada. He was the conductor of the National Youth Choir of Canada in 2000, and has served on the board of the Association of Canadian Choral Conductors as President.

Auditions: Auditions will take place in FAB 3-46. Sign-up sheet(s) with exact times and location as well as audition requirements will be posted on the door of FAB 3-46 on August 19.
Rehearsals (Regular attendance is required): Mondays, 6:00 to 6:50 pm; Tuesdays & Thursdays, 12:30 to 1:50 pm in FAB 1-29.

The University of Alberta Opera Workshop

Under the direction of Dr Alan Ord, participants in the Opera Workshop study and perform scenes, or full-length works from the operatic literature each term. An emphasis is on the development of operatic acting, character development, and proper movement on stage. The productions are performed on stage at Convocation Hall with costumes, properties, lighting, and scenery. The larger productions are done with full orchestra.Recently, the Opera Workshop presented The Marriage Of Figaro by Mozart. Other works presented include: The Medium by Menotti, A Midsummer Night's Dream by Britten, and Gianni Schicchi by Pucinni.

Bass **Alan Ord** is an Associate Professor of Voice and Director of Opera at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. He earned his BA in Voice from Brigham Young University, his M.S. in Voice from The Juilliard School, and his DMA in Opera from the University of Southern California. In addition, Dr Ord has taught at the University of Connecticut, the University of Utah, and Brigham Young University.

He is an active member of The National Association of the Teachers of Singing and served as President of the Alberta North Chapter. As a performer, Dr Ord and has appeared as bass soloist in the United States and Canada in recital, concert, opera, on national radio and television, in plays, musicals, and is heard on several commercial opera recordings. He has performed as soloist in Carnegie

Hall, Alice Tully Hall, and Avery Fisher Hall in New York City and appeared in American opera premieres of works by Darius Milhaud and Richard Rodney Bennett. He has performed under the baton of Leopold Stokowsky, Jean Morel, John Nelson, and Anton Guardagno and has appeared in opera under the direction of John Houseman, George London, Christopher West, Titto Capobianco, and Lofti Mansouri.

He has appeared with such organizations as The American Opera Center, The Metropolitan Opera Studio, The American Opera Society, The Edmonton Opera, and The Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. Dr Ord studied voice with Alexander Kipnis and Giorgio Tozzi and recently completed his second book "Songs for Beginning Bass Voice: With an Annotated Guide." This book and his first book "Songs for Bass Voice: An Annotated Guide to Works for Bass Voice," are published by Scarecrow Press, Inc.

Auditions: First day of classes, September 5 at 3:30 pm, Fine Arts Building 1-29. You must submit the title and composer of the song you plan to sing to Dr Ord no later than Wednesday, September 4. Dr Ord's mailbox is located in the Music office, FAB 3-82. For further information, please check the bulletin board on the third floor between FAB 3-41 and FAB 3-45 or you may call 492-9537.

***Rehearsals** (Attendance is required):* In FAB 1-29, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 3:30-5:20 pm.

Specialized Ensemble

Credit is available for singers wishing to sing in graduate students' conducting recitals or in the graduate conducting class. (Music X42 in the calendar). Singers in this ensemble can gain considerable experience in a variety of choral repertoire.

Auditions: Auditions will take place in FAB 1-29. Sign-up sheet(s) with exact times and location will be posted on the door of FAB 1-29 on August 19.

Rehearsals: (Regular attendance is required): Mondays, 7:00 to 8:30 pm; Wednesdays, 4:30 to 6:00 pm in FAB 1-29

Conducting Class: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 11:00-11:50 am, FAB 1-29

For further information on **The University of Alberta Concert Choir** and **Specialized Ensemble**, contact **Debra Cairns** at 492-2384, *e-mail:* dcairns@ualberta.ca

Madrigal Singers, contact **Leonard Ratzlaff** at 492-5306, *e-mail:* lratzlaf@ualberta.ca

Opera Workshop contact **Alan Ord** at 492-9537, *e-mail:* ord.music@shaw.ca

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